

career commitment to teaching American history; evidence of creativity and imagination in the classroom that address literacy and content beyond state standards; and evidence of thoughtful assessment of student achievement. Through Link's 13 dedicated years of teaching, it is clear that he embodies all of these criteria and many more.

After working for years as a night supervisor for what is now AstraZeneca, Link graduated from Wilmington College in 1995 with a bachelor's degree in education on a day that I was privileged to deliver the commencement address there. Three years later, he earned his master's of instruction from Wilmington College, which is now Wilmington University. He was motivated to become a teacher because of his interest in American History, his love of coaching and his passion to motivate children to achieve their true potential.

His interest in American history was increased in part by his work with me as a volunteer photographer over the past 26 years. During that time, Link also has documented a host of important events throughout Delaware. In his own words, he "created history with his camera lens."

In addition to teaching, Link has coached high school baseball for 14 years. He developed a love of the game as a child and wanted to see the same passion he felt for the game in the eyes of the children he coached. He stresses individual success for each of his players and he has always believed that once a child experiences success, they start believing that anything is possible. Link tries to foster this "anything is possible" mentality in all of his students and players, continually encouraging them to do their absolute best and settle for nothing less.

He has been instrumental in the growth of many children, building their confidence and showing them the path to personal success. His dedication to the children he coached is apparent to all who know him as he teaches his players lessons that will help them in all walks of life, both on and off the diamond.

Noticing his innate ability to connect with students and his drive to help them grow, Link's friends and players' parents suggested he pursue a career in teaching. With their encouragement, he decided to combine his love for American history and his commitment to helping children succeed. He became a teacher.

Link started his teaching career at Stanton Middle School, where he worked from 1995–1998 as a 7th grade social studies and language arts teacher. In 1998, he joined Skyline Middle School where he teaches today. He is an 8th grade American history and social studies teacher and also serves as the social studies department chair. In addition, he works as an adjunct professor at Wilmington University.

Link has been recognized many times as the Social Studies Teacher of the

Year by the Red Clay School District and was named the 2002–2003 Teacher of the Year at Skyline Middle School. These awards are a tribute to Link's creative teaching style and his genuine desire to help his students succeed.

Link's teaching style is unique and specifically tailored to helping students not just learn history but relive it. Link and others think of him as more than just a teacher. He is something of an actor, as well. He brings history alive in his classroom with props and costumes and engages his students in a way no textbook can. He and his students hold simulations of historical events, assuming the roles of prominent historic figures and acting out the sequence of the events. His students reenact the Boston massacre mock trial, the Constitution Convention of 1787, slavery and the underground railroad, and even battles of the Civil War. He doesn't simply teach history he engages his students to participate in history, bringing to mind the old Chinese proverb: Tell me, and I'll forget. Show me, and I may remember. Involve me, and I'll understand.

Link also utilizes the historic sites in the area to further instill in his students an understanding of America's past. He takes his students on trips to the Constitution Center in Philadelphia and to Fort Delaware, as well as to any number of sites in Washington, DC. His "classroom museum" is a place of interactive learning that is far from a memorization of dates and locations; instead, it is a journey through American history, with stops and detours along the way where students fully embrace America's past and its impact on the present.

Link is a powerful teacher with a deep love for his students and for history. He has a lighthearted attitude that allows him to connect with students on a level that few can. He can always be counted on to have a joke ready to break up the stresses of the students he teaches. Using his sense of humor to his advantage, Link constantly builds a closer relationship with his students to the point where they know they can come to him with anything from a history question to a problem with a friend at school.

Link is a truly remarkable teacher and human being. He encourages his students to reach beyond their limits and settle for nothing less. He instills in them the confidence they need to stand up for principles they believe in and become proponents of change in the future. His teaching philosophy is one to be admired and emulated as it allows students to be participants in history as opposed to mere observers.

Robert "Link" Lingenfelter has become one of the finest teachers in Delaware, and he is on his way to becoming one of the finest teachers in America. It is with a genuine sense of honor and joy that I rise today to extend heartfelt congratulations to my good friend for his award. There could not be a more deserving recipient. He will al-

ways be a role model, not just to his own students, but to all of us.●

TRIBUTE TO LEROY KOPPENDRAYER

● Mr. COLEMAN. Mr. President, today, I honor the distinguished public career of LeRoy Koppendray, retiring chairman of the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission. LeRoy was appointed commissioner in 1998 and chairman in 2003. He has served Minnesotans honorably for 10 years, upholding and protecting the interests of Minnesota's utility ratepayers while enjoying the respect and camaraderie of his fellow commissioners and those who have come to know him.

LeRoy's journey to becoming a commissioner has been filled with a lifetime of experiences anyone would admire. In the 1990s, LeRoy was elected to four terms as a representative in Minnesota's Legislature where he worked successfully on issues ranging from agriculture to energy to education. He also worked for years as a dairy farmer and then as an international agricultural consultant, spending time in South America, Africa, Jamaica, Philippines, and Indonesia, consulting farmers and working to develop and improve their economies and their lives. LeRoy's appointment to the commission caps his decades-long commitment to public service.

LeRoy's work as commissioner includes decisions on a myriad of issues facing Minnesota's utility ratepayers, such as rate cases filed by natural gas, electric, and telephone utility companies, the twin cities metro area code split, the establishment of rules governing reliability standards for electric utilities, renewable energy projects and the citing and routing of energy facilities and transmission pipelines, to name just a few.

LeRoy's committee memberships include the National Association of Regulatory Commissioners, known as NARUC; as liaison to NARUC's International Relations Committee; the NARUC Regulatory Advisory Committee to the Institute of Public Utilities; and the NARUC Committee on Electricity and Subcommittee on Strategic Issues. He has also served as chair of the Nuclear Waste Strategy Coalition and as a member of the board of the Organization of Midwest States, which oversees the Midwest electricity grid.

As chairman, LeRoy has ensured the integrity of the commission's process through thoughtful consideration of issues and a friendly rapport with those who appear before the commission. Whether it is a lawyer representing a utility or a concerned citizen appearing for the first time, LeRoy's approach is the same. He treats everyone with genuine respect and professional courtesy and with a sincere interest in understanding each person's point of view.

And on top of it all, LeRoy recently found time to make a 150-mile bicycle trip with his wife Carolyn and 10 other family members in support of MS research.

LeRoy is a man of loyalty, conviction, and fortitude. He commands great respect and great affection. He has an enviable capacity for warmth and kindness and is driven by his value for hard work. He stands firm in what he believes and yet finds common ground where there are differences, using a welcoming approach and a friendly smile to bring people together. And if all else fails, he'll make you laugh, mostly at his own expense, by poking fun at himself.

Today, at this bittersweet moment, it is with gratitude and admiration that I stand before you to honor LeRoy's longstanding contributions to the people of Minnesota through his years of service as commissioner of the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission.●

125TH ANNIVERSARY OF BELFIELD, NORTH DAKOTA

● Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, I am pleased to honor a community in North Dakota that is celebrating its 125th anniversary. From July 11 to July 13, the residents of Belfield, ND, will celebrate their community's history and founding.

Belfield is situated along the banks of the Heart River in western North Dakota. As the westward expansion of the Northern Pacific Railroad progressed, settlers established this community and first identified it as Fort Houston. Belfield is said to have later adopted its current name after Belle Field, the daughter of a railroad engineer.

Belfield offers visitors and residents fresh air and beautiful scenery. From Custer's Trail and Initial Rock, to Belfield Dam and the Maah Daah Hey Trail, Belfield has a wealth of outdoor recreational activities. This gateway to the west is also birthplace of North Dakota Supreme Court Judge Herbert L. Meschke.

To celebrate its 125th anniversary, Belfield is organizing a weekend filled with events such as a parade, class reunions, a demolition derby, a steak fry, historical photo and pottery displays, and games for all ages. Belfield will also be host to the Black Daggers, a U.S. Army Special Operations Command Parachute Demonstration Team. The team will be performing parachute jumps throughout the weekend at various locations. It will no doubt add a breathtaking element to this celebration.

Mr. President, I ask the U.S. Senate to join me in congratulating Belfield, ND, and its residents on their first 125 years and in wishing them well in the future. By honoring Belfield and all the other historic small towns of North Dakota, we keep the pioneering frontier spirit alive for future generations. It is

places such as Belfield that have helped to shape this country into what it is today, which is why this fine community is deserving of our recognition.

Belfield has a proud past and a bright future.●

125TH ANNIVERSARY OF MENOKEN, NORTH DAKOTA

● Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, I am pleased to honor a community in North Dakota that recently celebrated its 125th anniversary. On June 21, the residents of Menoken gathered to celebrate their community and its historic founding.

Menoken is located in Burleigh County, just a few miles from the State capital. Although its population is small, Menoken holds an important place in our State's history. As the first tracks of the Northern Pacific Railroad were being laid across North Dakota, the Seventeenth Siding was marked; later to be known as what is now Menoken. Upon the completion of the railroad, settlers from Maine occupied the territory and named the town Blaine, after Maine Senator James G. Blaine. Once more the town's name was changed to Clark, and then finally secured as Menoken.

The citizens of Menoken take great pride in their community enriched with history. The town is home to the Menoken Indian Village, which is a preserved prehistoric earthlodge village that dates back to the early 13th century A.D. In addition, the battle-grounds of General Sibley's campaign of 1863 are located near Menoken. These two landmarks are among many of the town's sacred keepsakes that resemble the very essence of North Dakota.

The 125th anniversary celebration included a school tour, fashion show, and parade. It was followed by a horseshoe tournament, tractor pull, and old-time music. Once evening set in, people witnessed an exceptional cavalry reenactment. It was no doubt a day unlike any other.

Mr. President, I ask the U.S. Senate to join me in congratulating Menoken, ND, and its residents on their 125th anniversary and in wishing them well for the future. By honoring Menoken and all other towns of North Dakota, we keep the pioneering, frontier spirit alive for future generations. It is places such as Menoken that have helped to shape this country into what it is today, which is why this fine community is deserving of our recognition.

Menoken has a proud past and a bright future.●

125TH ANNIVERSARY OF MICHIGAN, NORTH DAKOTA

● Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, I am pleased to honor a community in North Dakota that is celebrating its 125th anniversary. On July 24 through July 27, the residents of Michigan will celebrate their community's history and founding.

Michigan is a small town with a population of 345 residents located in Nelson County in northeastern North Dakota. It was established on January 2, 1883, with the completion of its post office with C.J. Bondurant as postmaster. Soon after its establishment, railroad tracks were completed, and, in March of 1883, the first train reached Michigan. The town quickly became known as a trading center. With the railroads came more people, who built businesses, churches and schools. The settlers began to cultivate the land and raise crops. Agriculture soon became the center of their economy and remains so to this day.

Today, Michigan remains a proud community that has a prosperous economy consisting of farming, manufacturing industries, and retail businesses. Residents of Michigan are known for their honesty, strong work ethic, and living off the land. It is a great place for enjoying the outdoors all year round, including hunting, cross-country skiing, fishing, boating, and camping. Michigan Days is a highlight each summer. During Michigan Days, the residents enjoy live music, a softball tournament, street dances, a tractor pull, and ice cream socials.

As part of the weekend anniversary celebration residents will be able to go to the interesting Dakota Mysteries and Oddities Museum. Michigan will also hold a golf tournament at the Duffers Club and dedicate the Veteran's Memorial Building for all the brave residents of Michigan who have served in past wars. Several other wonderful activities will be taking place throughout the weekend.

Mr. President, I ask the U.S. Senate to join me in congratulating Michigan, ND, and its residents on their 125th anniversary and in wishing them well in the future. By honoring Michigan and all the other historic towns of North Dakota, we keep the pioneering frontier spirit alive for future generations. It is places such as Michigan that have helped shape this country into what it is today, which is why this community is deserving of our recognition.

Michigan has a proud past and a bright future.●

125TH ANNIVERSARY OF MILNOR, NORTH DAKOTA

● Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, I wish to recognize a community in North Dakota that will be celebrating its 125th anniversary. On July 18-20, the residents of Milnor will gather to celebrate their community's history and founding.

During the summer of 1863, Henry Hastings Sibley and his army camped on the shore of Storm Lake—Camp Buel—and about 20 years later, in 1883, Milnor was established on that historical site. Milnor was named after William E. Milnor, the first telegrapher at the Milnor Station and WM Milnor Roberts, a famous civil engineer of the